

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179539

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: O'NEILL APPOINTS CONGRESSMEN TO SEEK ACCESS TO
KIM DONG-JO

1. SPEAKER O'NEILL INFORMED US LATE JULY 14 THAT HE AND
MINORITY LEADER RHODES HAVE APPOINTED CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON
(D) AND SPENCE (R) (BOTH ON HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE) TO
VISIT KOREA AND SEEK ACCESS TO KIM DONG-JO.

2. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH KIM
DONG-JO FOR HAMILTON AND SPENCE IN NEAR FUTURE. WE ARE
MEETING WITH THEM EARLY JULY 17 TO ASCERTAIN THEIR
DESIRED SCHEDULE. O'NEILL AND RHODES HAVE ALSO WRITTEN
A LETTER TO PRESIDENT PARK WHICH YOU WILL BE ASKED TO
DELIVER AT THE TIME OF THE KIM DONG-JO APPOINTMENT. THE
SPEAKER BELIEVES YOU SHOULD ACCOMPANY THE TWO CONGRESSMEN
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ON ALL THEIR APPOINTMENTS IN SEOUL.

3. BY SEPTTEL WE ARE TRANSMITTING TO YOU (FYI ONLY AT
THIS TIME) THE LETTER TO PARK FROM O'NEILL AND RHODES.
THERE MAY BE SOME POSSIBILITY FOR TEXTUAL ADJUSTMENTS.

4. ACTION: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENT URGENTLY TO

BE IN OUR HANDS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MONDAY IN ORDER

THAT WE CAN TAKE YOUR VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE
DISCUSSION WITH HAMILTON AND SPENCE SCHEDULED FOR 0930.
DO NOT COMMUNICATE WITH ROKG IN ANY MANNER UNTIL FURTHER
INSTRUCTED. WE WILL WANT TO CONSIDER THE APPROPRIATENESS
OF YOUR ACCOMPANYING THE CONGRESSMEN TO ANY SESSION
DURING WHICH QUESTIONING OF KIM DONG-JO IS PROPOSED.
THIS MAY RAISE VIENNA CONVENTION QUESTIONS WHICH ARE BEST
AVOIDED BY INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN KIM AND THE CONGRESS-
MEN AT WHICH YOU ARE NOT PRESENT. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE
YOUR VIEWS ON THIS POINT.

COMMENT: THIS COULD BE A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION
FOR BOTH KOREANS AND OURSELVES. TRIP BY THE TWO CONGRESS-
MEN WOULD SHOW RESPECT WHICH PROBABLY NOT ACHIEVABLE IN
ANY FACE-TO-FACE KIM DONG-JO DIALOGUE WITH INVESTIGATORS
OR COMMITTEE COUNSEL. WE WOULD HOPE ROKG WOULD VIEW
THIS PROPOSAL AS MAXIMUM EFFORT BY CONGRESSIONAL LEADER-
SHIP TO RESOLVE ENTIRE EPISODE IN AMICABLE AND COOPERATIVE
MANNER WHICH WILL REMOVE THE OTHERWISE DEEPLY NEGATIVE
AFTEREFFECTS OF A SITUATION WHICH WILL BE LABELED IN
AMERICAN POLITICAL TERMS AS NON-COOPERATION BY THE ROKG
IN VITAL US INVESTIGATION. WHETHER SLIGHTLY MORE RAPID
RESPONSE BY THE ROKG TO PROPOSALS DISCUSSED THESE PAST
TWO WEEKS WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT WE PROBABLY WILL NOT
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NOW KNOW.
CHRISTOPHER

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